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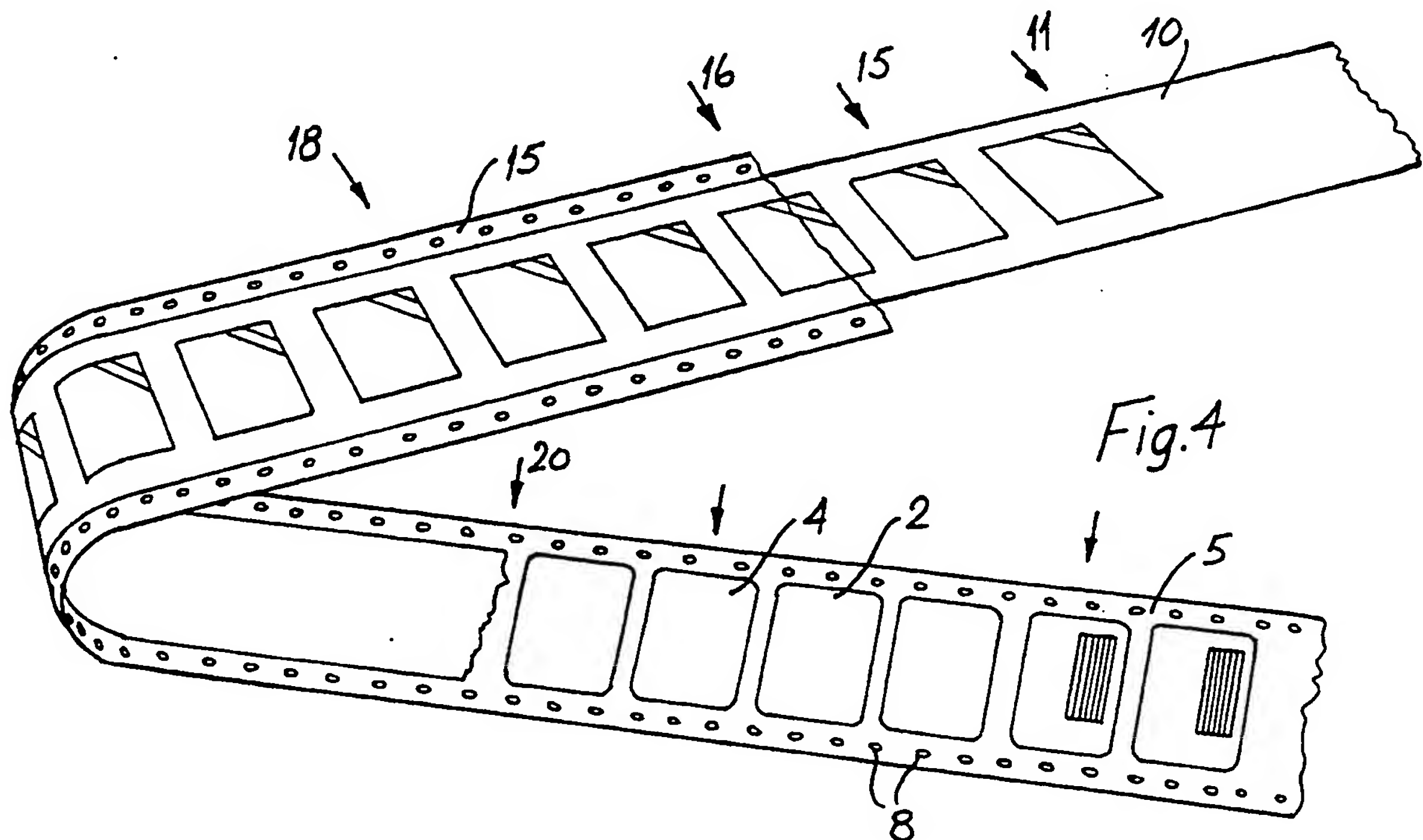
(58) Field of search

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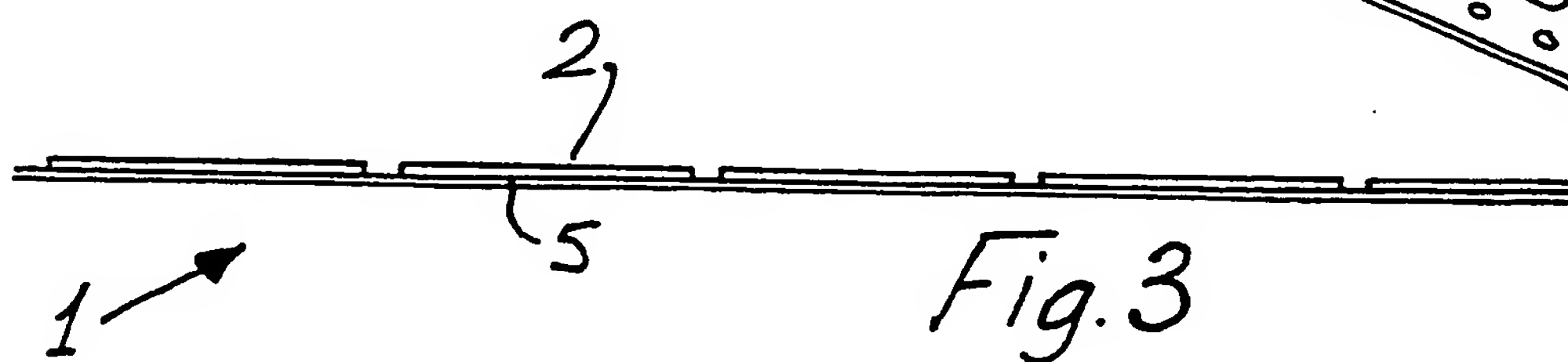
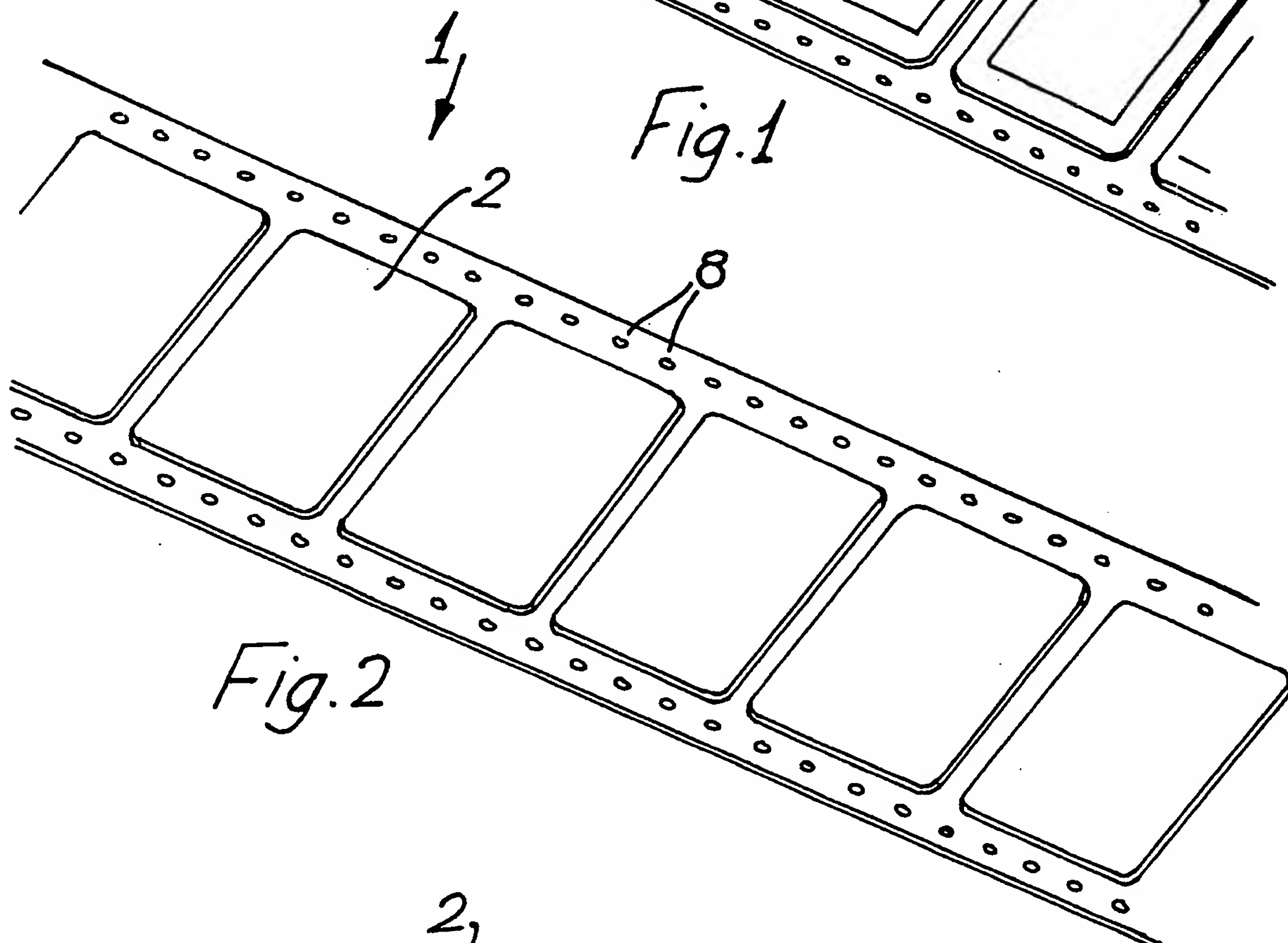
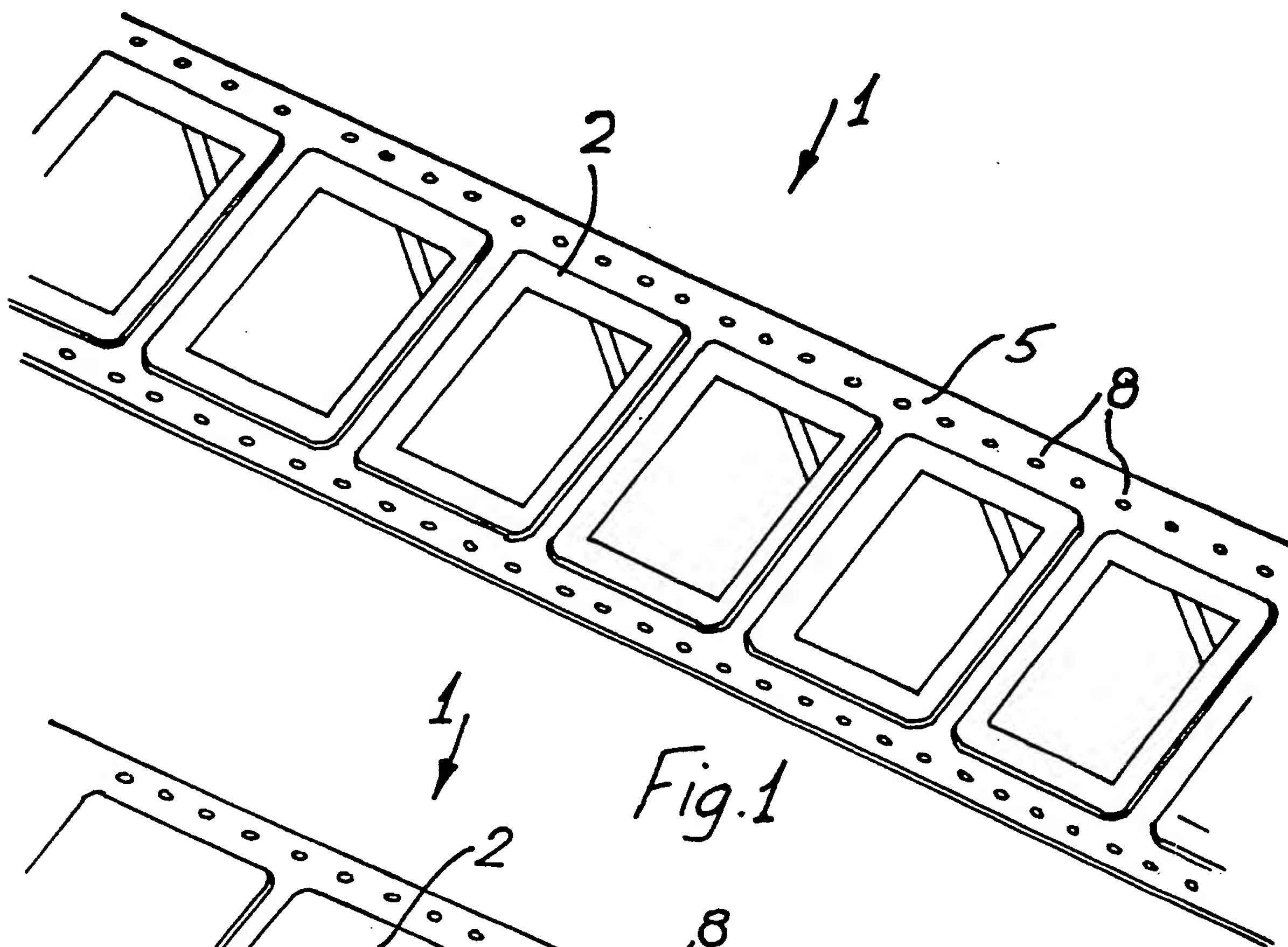
(57) A strip of card-forming facestock material is mounted on a carrier stock 5 of translucent material by means of an adhesive. The adhesive is cured by passing U.V. light through the carrier stock 5. The strip of card-forming material is then cut into any desired shape such as a plurality of spaced-apart cards 2 or tags. The carrier stock 5 may have index holes 8 for mounting in a computer controlled printer for automatic printing onto at least the rear faces 4 of the cards 2.



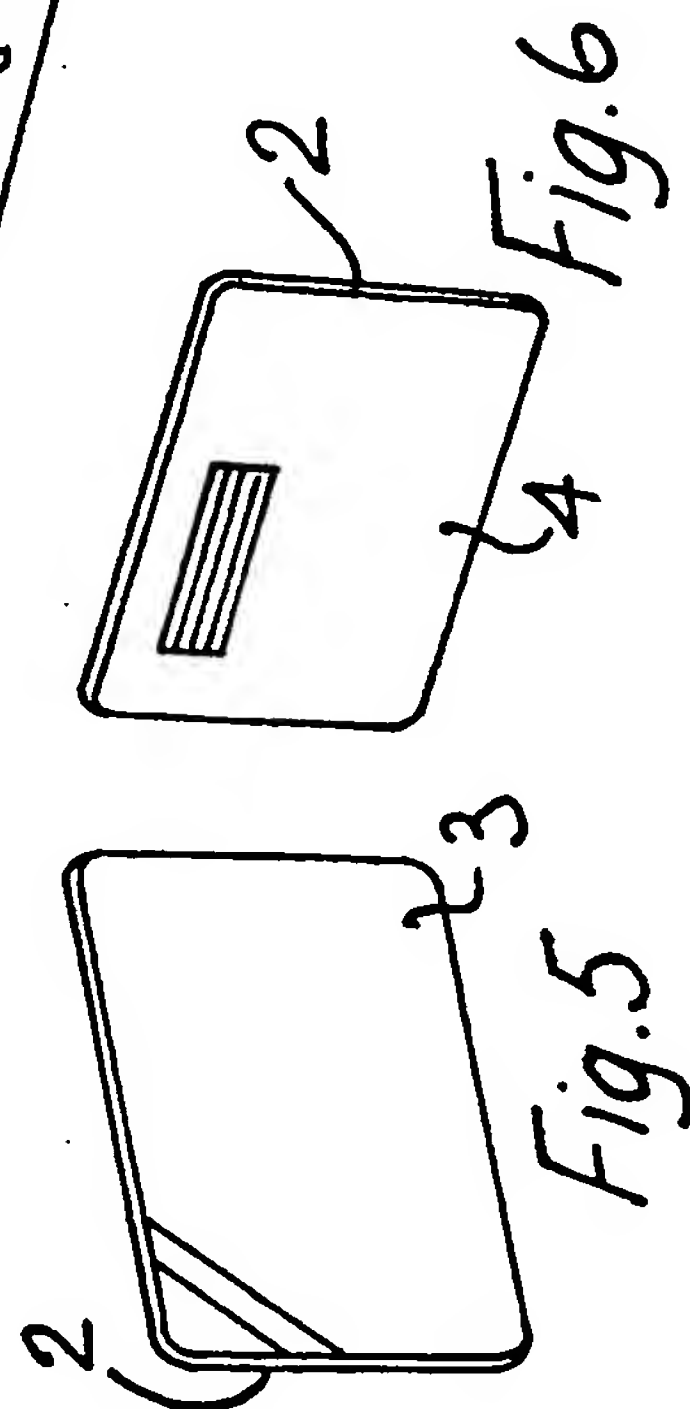
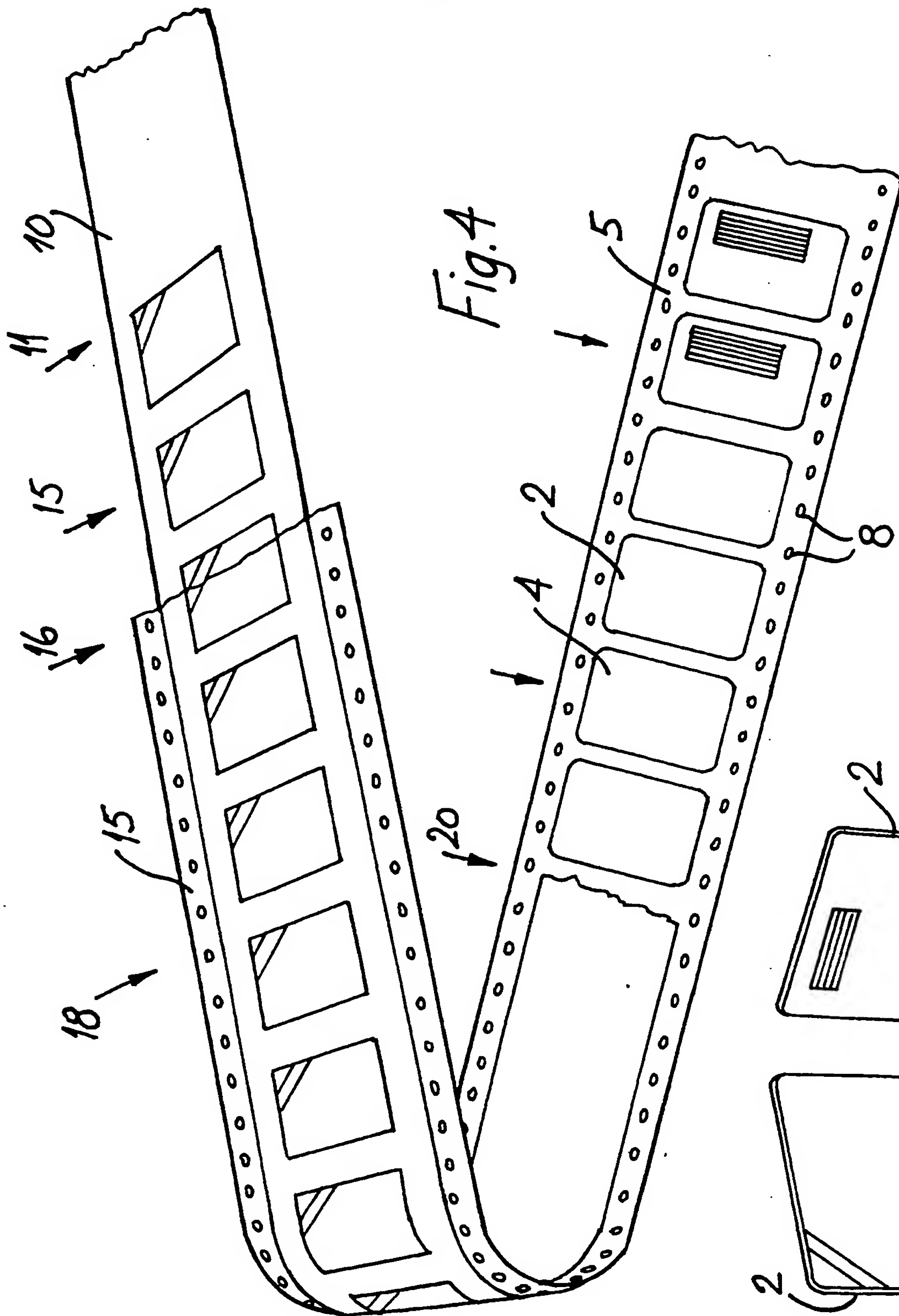
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"A Method of Forming Cards"

The invention relates to a method of forming cards including tags, labels, business cards, membership cards, admission tickets, security passes, facia plates, parts for toys or games and the like hereinafter referred to as cards in
5 general.

According to the invention there is provided a method of manufacturing a laminate of card-forming facestock material on a carrier stock comprising the steps of:

10 providing an adhesive between a strip of card-forming facestock material and a carrier stock,

covering the facestock material with the carrier stock to form a laminate, and

cutting the card forming material into a desired shape to form cards as hereinbefore defined.

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In one embodiment of the invention the adhesive is coated onto the facestock material prior to application of the carrier stock.

Preferably the carrier stock is of a translucent material.

- 5 In one preferred embodiment of the invention the adhesive is cured by passing electromagnetic radiation through the carrier stock after the carrier stock is applied to the facestock material and adhesive.

10 Preferably the electromagnetic radiation is ultra-violet light.

In one embodiment of the invention the laminate is adapted for computer generated printing.

In one case the carrier stock includes register means for a tractor fed computer printer.

- 15 In another case the laminate is adapted for thermal printing.

The invention also provides a laminate and cards whenever produced by the method of the invention.

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The invention will be more clearly understood from the following description thereof given by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

5 Fig. 1 is a perspective view from the top of a strip of cards according to the invention,

Fig. 2 is a perspective view from the below the strip of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a side view of the strip,

10 Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic perspective view of the method used to form the strip of cards according to the invention,

Fig. 5 is a front view of one card, and

Fig. 6 is a rear of the card of Fig. 5.

15 Referring to the drawings there is illustrated a laminate 1 of cards 2 according to the invention formed by a method which is also according to the invention. Each of the cards 2 has a front face 3 and a rear face 4. The strip comprises a carrier stock 5 which is of a transparent material such as polyvinyl chloride and a plurality of cards 2 are spaced-apart
20 along the laminate 1 and releasably mounted to the carrier

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stock 5, with the front face 3 down, by an adhesive. The carrier stock 5 in this case has index holes 8 for mounting in a computer controlled printer for automatic printing from computer onto at least the rear faces 4 of the cards 2.

5 Referring to Fig. 4 the laminate 1 according to the invention is formed in the following manner. A strip of any desired card-forming facestock material 10 is first passed to a printing station 11 where at least portion of the front face 3 of the material 10 is printed on. The printed front face 3
10 and/or rear face of the material 10 is then coated with an adhesive at a coating station 15 and a film of transparent carrier material such as P.V.C. is applied over the adhesive at a carrier applying station 16. The laminate thus formed then passes to a curing station 18 where the adhesive is cured
15 by electromagnetic radiation such as by ultra-violet light applied through the translucent carrier 5.

The laminate 1 of the facestock 10 and carrier stock 5 is then turned over so that the facestock 10 is uppermost. The laminate is then die cut by passing it through a flat die-cutting unit and/or a rotary die-cutting unit which cuts the
20 facestock 10 into any desired shape and size. Register holes 8 may be punched from under the laminate using a rotary die unit. The laminate is slit to a desired width and may then be rolled onto cores or sheeted, as required.

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The waste facestock 10 may be removed after die cutting or may be retained and removed after a user prints any desired information or data on the rear face 4 of the cards 2 formed by the facestock 10.

- 5 The finished strips may then be fed into a computer printer using the register holes 8 and any desired information or data may be printed on the rear face 4 of the cards.

Alternatively the rear face of the facestock may be adapted for thermal printing.

- 10 The individual cards are releasably attached to the carrier and may be readily peeled off leaving the adhesive on the carrier.

The cards thus formed may be used for any desired purpose such as for tags for use with clothes and the like, labels,
15 business cards, membership cards, admission tickets for concerts, football games and the like, security passes, facia plates, parts for toys and games and many other uses.

It will be appreciated that the facestock material 10 may be of any desired thickness or width. It may, for example be of
20 a metal foil material, a cardboard material, a plastics material or the like.

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It will also be appreciated that if desired the material may be decorated or printed on either or indeed both sides prior to or subsequent to the application of the carrier material. For example the material may be photosensitive on one side and
5 an image may be subsequently formed.

It is envisaged that the cards may be arranged in any suitable way on the carrier stock.

It will further be appreciated that the adhesive need not necessarily cover the entire front face of the card-forming
10 facestock material. It may be localised, for example to that area which is discarded after the cards are removed.

We have found that because the adhesive is applied to a printed facestock material we can readily print on both sides of the facestock material in register with whatever cutting
15 dies (whether rotary or reciprocating) after the facestock material has been die cut.

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CLAIMS

1. A method of manufacturing a laminate of card-forming
facestock material on a carrier stock comprising the
steps of:
 - 5 providing an adhesive between a strip of card-
forming facestock material and a carrier stock,

 covering the facestock material with the carrier
stock to form a laminate, and

 cutting the card forming material into a desired
10 shape to form cards as hereinbefore defined.
2. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the adhesive is
coated onto the facestock material prior to application
of the carrier stock.
3. A method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the carrier
15 stock is of a translucent material.
4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the
adhesive is cured by passing electromagnetic radiation
through the carrier stock after the carrier stock is
applied to the facestock material and adhesive.

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5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the electromagnetic radiation is ultra-violet light.
6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the laminate is adapted for computer generated printing.
- 5 7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the carrier stock includes register means for a tractor fed computer printer.
8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the laminate is adapted for thermal printing.
- 10 9. A method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.
10. A laminate whenever produced by a method as claimed in any preceding claim.
11. Cards whenever produced by a method as claimed in any
15 preceding claim.

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